

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 DHA-02 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

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P R 111414Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8469

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, PBOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: UNESCO: ITEM 70 - EDUCATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE MILITARY OCCUPATION, WEST BANK AND E. JERUSALEM SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AND SUCCEED IN PROVIDING THEIR STUDENTS WITH THE BASIC EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION NEEDED FOR WORK AND HIGHER EDUCATION BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE WEST BANK. FOR THE 1976 SCHOOL YEAR, GOI HAS RESTORED ESSENTIALLY JORDANIAN CURRICULUM TO E. JERUSALEM SCHOOLS. A BASICALLY BENEVOLENT GOI EDUCATIONAL POLICY IS MARRED BY SOME ARBITRARY RESTRICTIONS, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED TRANSFERS AND OCCASIONALLY HARSH AND PROBABLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE SECURITY MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

2. SECONDARY EDUCATION ON THE WEST BANK, AS IN JORDAN, IS DIRECTED TOWARDS QUALIFYING STUDENTS TO PASS THE TAWJIHI (HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATION EXAM). STUDENTS WHO SUCCEED HAVE WON THEIR TICKETS TO HIGH EDUCATION AND BETTER EMPLOYMENT. ACCORDING TO THE ARAB WHO SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR THE BETHLEHEM AREA, OVER 4,000 WEST BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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TION FOR THE BETHLEHEM AREA, OVER 4,000 WEST BANK HIGH SCHOOL

SENIORS PASSED THE 1976 EXAM. THIS NUMBER REPRESENTS ABOUT 77 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO TOOK THE EXAM, THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE EVER. ALTHOUGH A BIT CLEARER THAN IN THE PAST YEARS, THE EXAM WAS NOT INTENTIONALLY SIMPLIFIED NOR WERE STANDARDS OF GRADING RELAXED. OBVIOUSLY, EVEN IN A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED INTERRUPTIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, WEST BANK SCHOOLS CONTINUED TO FUNCTION AND ACHIEVE THEIR PRIMARY GOALS.

3. GOI INTERFERENCE INSIDE THE CLASSROOM IS MINIMAL. ALTHOUGH THE GOI REVIEWS TEXTBOOKS AND REMOVES MATERIAL CONSIDERED TO BE ANTI-ISRAELI, CENSORSHIP HAS NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN WEST BANK SCHOOLS. AN EDUCATION MINISTRY SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT DELETIONS ARE RARELY NECESSARY, AND ARAB EDUCATORS DO NOT USUALLY COMPLAIN.

4. MORE SIGNIFICANT, IN THE PAST, HAS BEEN THE IMPOSITION OF THE ISRAELI ARAB CURRICULUM ON E. JERUSALEM SCHOOLS IN 1967. HOWEVER, SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO BRING THE CURRICULUM IN E. JERUSALEM HIGH SCHOOLS AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN LINE WITH THE JORDANIAN ONE. THE MOST RECENT CHANGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1976 SCHOOL YEAR, RE-ESTABLISHES THE JORDANIAN CURRICULUM IN ITS ENTIRETY BUT REQUIRES ALL STUDENTS TO STUDY HEBREW AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO STUDY AN ISRAELI CIVICS COURSE WHICH INCLUDES THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK OF ISRAEL, COURTS, AND HISTADRUT, BUT EXCLUDES JEWISH HISTORY AND ZIONISM. ARAB EDUCATORS HOPE CHANGE CAN NOW BE EXTENDED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

5. REINSTATEMENT OF JORDANIAN CURRICULUM HAS OBTAINED, TO A GREAT EXTENT, PROBLEM OF E. JERUSALEMITES WHO ARE - STRICTED FROM STUDYING IN WEST BANK SCHOOLS. WITH JORDANIAN CURRICULUM AVAILABLE, NO REAL NEED NOW EXISTS EXCEPT FOR TEACHER TRAINEES WHO FIND NO TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOLS IN E. JERUSALEM. ALTHOUGH GOI APPARENTLY DOES NOT APPLY THE PROHIBITION STRICTLY, TWO GIRLS FROM E. JERUSALEM WERE TOLD THEY COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE STUDIES IN A RAMALLAN TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOL FOLLOWING MOST RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS THERE.

6. AFTER A LONG, HOT SPRING DURING WHICH STUDENTS SERVED AS SHOCK TROOPS AND SCHOOLS STAGING AREAS FOR ANTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS, ISRAELI SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAVE MOVED TO DAMPEN ARDOR OF DEMONSTRATORS BY ENLISTING ASSISTANCE OF TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS. CARROT HAS BEEN MILGOV PLEDGE TO KEEP SOLDIERS AWAY FROM SCHOOLS SO THEIR PRESENCE WILL NOT SERVE AS PROVOCATION; STICK HAS BEEN POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED TRANSFERS OF ABOUT 30 TEACHERS, USUALLY FROM MAIN EDUCATIONAL CENTERS TO LESS DESIRABLE AND INACCESSIBLE SCHOOLS IN OUTLYING AREAS. GENERAL SENTIMENT AMONG ARAB EDUCATORS (PERHAPS NOW SHARED BY

ISRAELIS) IS THAT HEAVY-HANDED SECURITY MEASURES, E.G. STORMING OF BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY DORMITORY AND QADRI TUCAN HIGH SCHOOL IN EARLY MARCH, 1976, ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE AND MERELY BECOME CAUSES CELEBRES FOR SUBSEQUENT DEMONSTRATIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME RESTRIANT HAS BEEN EVIDENT BY BOTH MILGOV AND ARAB EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS THUS FAR IN 1976-77 SCHOOL YEAR, ISRAELIS DID ENTER SCHOOLS IN HEBRON FOLLOWING OCT. 2 AND 3 INCIDENTS AT IBRAHIMI MOSQUE AND IN NABLUS FOLLOWING BALFOUR DAY DEMONSTRATIONS NOV. 2.

7. IN THE AREA OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, WEST BANK PALESTINIANS ENJOY A LARGE DEGREE OF FREEDOM. PALESTINIAN PERIODICALS (E.G. BAIYADIR) AND BOOKS (E.G. NOVELS OF GHASAN KANEFANE) NOT ALLOWED IN JORDAN ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEST BANK. CULTURAL EVENINGS OF PALESTINAIN DANCE AND MUSIC, FAIRS OF PALESTINIAN HANDICRAFTS, AND CONFERENCES ON THE WEST BANK'S PALESTINIAN HERITAGE ARE ALSO ALLOWED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EDUCATION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976JERUSA01562  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760420-0896  
**From:** JERUSALEM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761159/aaaabyvg.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNESCO: ITEM 70 - EDUCATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES  
**TAGS:** PORG, OCON, PBOR, IS, JO, UNESCO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006